

**Greyfriars (John Knox) Church, Broad St/Queen St,
Aberdeen, AB10 1AP
Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)**

National Grid Reference: NJ94287 06433

Parish: Aberdeen

Height OD: 20-25m

Written and researched by:

Cameron Archaeology

Commissioning client:

Steven Lawrence, TCD Architects

For

G1 Group PLC

Contractor:

Cameron Archaeology
45 View Terrace
Aberdeen
AB25 2RS
01224 643020
07581 181057
cameronarch@btinternet.com
www.cameronarchaeology.com
Company registration no 372223 (Scotland)
VAT registration no 990 4373 00

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1 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The site (Illus 1) is located on the N side of Broad Street between Marischal College and Queen Street. It is centred on NGR NJ94287 06433, at 20-25m OD in the parish of Aberdeen.
- 1.2 The work was commissioned by Steven Lawrence, TCD Architects for G1 Group PLC. An application 161489/DPP to Aberdeen City Council is pending. Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (who cover Aberdeen City) require a Level 2 standing building survey and a watching brief on all ground disturbance.
- 1.3 All the archaeological work will be carried out in the context of Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed.



Illus 1 Location plan (Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2017)

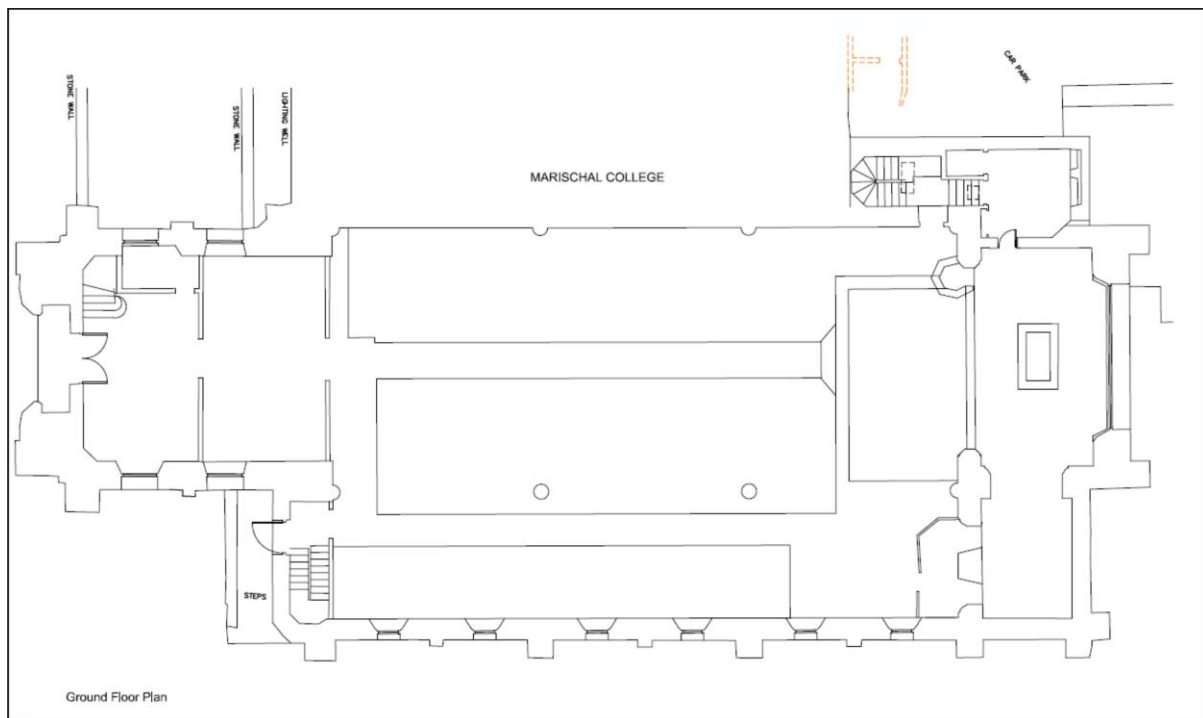
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Greyfriars Church is Listed category A and was built in A Marshall Mackenzie in 1903. Perpendicular Gothic church with nave and single aisle and large, tall, crocketed and finialled, 3-stage square-plan entrance tower with angled buttresses and spire to W (Broad Street). Adjoining Marischal College (see separate listing). Large 16th century 7-light tracery window to chancel on E elevation incorporated from previous church. Grey Kenmay granite ashlar. String course, cill course, buttresses to 6-bay aisle at S (Queen Street). Deep-set rectangular and bipartite windows to S with splayed reveals. The tower entrance elevation to Broad Street with steps leading to central advanced pedimented entrance porch. Multi-panelled decorative 2-leaf timber entrance door. Very slender, tall, paired bipartite openings to 2nd stage. Top stage comprises paired tall and narrow perpendicular tracery windows mirrored to all elevations, surmounted by double-height slender crocketed and finialled parapet and needle spire. Predominantly multi-pane fixed leaded-pane windows, some with hoppers. Grey slates. Cast-iron rainwater goods. INTERIOR: whitewashed with ashlar dressings. 3-bay arcaded nave with clerestory to S. Simple open timber ribbed ceiling. Steep timber gallery at W. Possible 17th century carved timber choir stalls to E. Polished granite communion table and pulpit. Timber pews. Stained glass to E chancel window by Charles Earner Kempe. Integrally designed to form the crucial SW corner of the nationally important Marischal College (see separate listing) and by the same renowned local architect, A Marshall Mackenzie, this Church, with its impressive and imposing tower is an important building within the city centre and a defining landmark. Taking its cue from Marshall's celebrated Gothic addition to Marischal College, the Greyfriars John Knox Church is embellished with an array of finials and crockets. Refined work in granite only became possible after steam technology allowed for more sophisticated cutting techniques in the 1830s. A 16th century tracery window has been incorporated into the present church and now has stained glass by C E Kempe. It is likely that the carved timber choir stalls in the chancel also came from the previous church. The original Greyfriars Collegiate Church was built in 1532 by Franciscan monks and lay at right angles and to the North of the present church, along Broad Street. It was incorporated into Marischal College, which was founded in 1593 (Cameron forthcoming). The college was rebuilt between 1837-41 and further extended between 1893-97. It was this extension along Broad Street which caused the original collegiate Church to be demolished and after much negotiation between the Town Council, Church and University, Marshall Mackenzie built this replacement in the same Perpendicular Gothic Style as the college extension. It formed an integral part of the whole site (Listed Buildings online, HES; Gammie 1909, 25).
- 2.2 Mesolithic activity has been found at several sites in the vicinity. Several hundred flints were recovered from earliest layers at the adjacent 16-18 Netherkirkgate/Guestrow site (Cameron 2001, 30; Illus 2 No 3) and at 12-26 Broad Street (Murray 1982, 26-27; Illus 2, No 6).
- 2.3 This site is at the centre of the medieval burgh of Aberdeen; Parson James Gordon's map of Aberdeen 1661 (Illus 3) shows that this area was well developed by this period. Substantial well-preserved medieval remains were found at several sites in the vicinity including Marischal College on the opposite of Broad Street (Cameron forthcoming) which slightly overlaps the current site. Marischal College is the site of the Franciscan friary and buildings and burials from this religious centre were excavated as well as the early buildings of Marischal College. During the work to convert the building to Aberdeen City Council headquarters the pavement between Broad Street and the SW frontage of the building was lifted and a watching brief carried out; the 19th to early 20th-century tenement building remains were recorded but nothing of an earlier date. Medieval sites have also been excavated at Gallowgate Middle School (Cameron 2001, 73-79), 43-57 Upperkirkgate/Flourmill Brae (Cameron 2001, 50-58), 16-18 Netherkirkgate (Cameron 2001, 28-37), 30-46 Upperkirkgate (Stones 2001, 60-69) and 42 St Paul Street (Murray 1982, 46-84).

- 2.4 Provost Skene's House was built in the 16th century, and is one of the Aberdeen's few surviving examples of early burgh architecture. The first reference to the plot of land was in 1545 when Alexander Knollis took possession of the site on Guestrow, one of Aberdeen's principal streets at that time (Aberdeen City Council 1994, 3). Y 1661 (Illus the NE part of the site is occupied by houses on the south side of Broad/Bread Street, south of which Guestrow (Gwestraw) runs across the current site NW-SE and south of this another line of buildings which include What is now Provost Skene's House. South-west of these buildings are backlands running along the entire west edge of the site.
- 2.5 The proposed development site is represented on the First and Second Edition OS maps (Illus 3, 4) as a series of buildings along the queen Street frontage including one public house, and a public house on the frontage of Broad Street. There is a lane (Jopp's Court at the N edge of the development area. The church is *in situ* by the Third Edition OS map (Illus 5).

3 METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 Cameron Archaeology will carry out a Level 2 Standing Building Survey and a watching brief on all ground disturbance.



Illus 2 Site plan showing proposed development, ground floor (*copyright TCD Architects*)

4 Reporting and finds

- 4.1 This archaeological work follows Scottish Planning Policy (SPP) Planning Advice Note (PAN 2/2011) and Historic Environment Scotland's Policy Statement (HESPS) which state that archaeological remains should be regarded as part of the environment to be protected and managed, Scottish Planning Policy and the Institute for Archaeologists (IFA) Code of Conduct.
- 4.2 Finds of objects will be subject to the Scots Laws of Treasure Trove and Bona Vacantia and reported by the archaeological contractor to the Secretariat of the Treasure Trove Panel (National Museums of Scotland, Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD) for disposal to an appropriate museum.

- 4.3 Any human remains which are encountered will initially be left *in situ*. Their discovery will be reported to the Procurator Fiscal and the client. The Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority will also be informed. Their removal will comply with the provisions of Scots Law.

5 Access and Safety

- 5.1 Cameron Archaeology will inform the Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority prior to the start of fieldwork.
- 5.2 All relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of conduct will be respected.
- 5.3 Staff will wear steel toe-capped boots, hard hats and hi-viz vests at all times. They will carry CSCS cards and present these during site induction. A health and safety risk assessment will be made and will be made available to all staff and contractors.
- 5.4 A machine with a flat-edged ditching bucket will be used at all times. Trenches will be opened and excavated down to the level of the first archaeological layer and to the natural subsoil if no archaeological remains are encountered. An archaeologist will not enter the trench unless the sides are safe; if there is a depth greater than 1.2m, the sides of the trench will be battered or stepped. In sandy conditions the trench edges will be stepped or battered at a lesser depth than 1.2m.
- 5.5 The archaeologist will hand clean and record any features and some will be part excavated to determine nature and depth.

6 Recording Systems

- 6.1 Cameron Archaeology fieldwork number CA331-2017 has been allocated to this site. This number will appear on all site records and finds and all post-excavation material. Cameron Archaeology recording systems will be used on this project.
- 6.2 A site location plan will be produced which will tie in to National Grid and will locate Ordnance Survey bench marks and TBMs used on the site.
- 6.3 Plans of contexts will be produced at 1:20 (or other scale as appropriate) and sections of features at 1:10. All site drawings will be on polyester-based drawing film
- 6.4 The OD height of contexts will be calculated and recorded on plans, sections and level book.
- 6.5 For complex stratification, a Harris matrix will be prepared to record stratigraphic relationships.
- 6.6 A photographic record will consist of high quality digital images for all main contexts as well as working and general site and location photographs.

7 Treatment of finds and samples

- 7.1 Sampling strategies will depend on the perceived importance of the deposit or feature under excavation. Bulk samples for sieving will be taken as necessary. A selection of samples will be sent for analysis by specialist archaeological soil analysts.
- 7.2 Finds will be exposed, recorded, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in line with archaeological guidelines. Metalwork will be assessed, a selection will be x-rayed and selected for conservation.

- 7.3 Organic samples will be collected or sampled and subjected to conservation, dendrochronology, carbon 14 sampling or other analytical technique as necessary.
- 7.4 Cameron Archaeology can confirm that arrangements are in place to cover all necessary processing, conservation, specialist analysis and subsequent storage of finds and samples.

8 Post-excavation and publication

- 8.1 The responsibility for funding the Post-Excavation work lies with the client/developer. A report will be prepared for the client within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork and if appropriate a Post-Excavation Research Design (PERD) will then be produced outlining the scope of post-excavation work. The results of which will then be collated into a final Data Structure Report (DSR).
- 8.2 Publication will take place in a suitable journal. The costs for this publication are also the responsibility of the client/developer.

9 Archive

- 9.1 Copies of the fieldwork report will be sent to the applicant and the Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority.
- 9.2 A brief summary of results will be submitted to *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*, along with the appropriate fee.
- 9.3 An OASIS report will be completed for this site within 4 weeks of the end of fieldwork.
- 9.4 The site archive will be lodged with Local Authority archaeologist and Planning Authority and HES.

10 REFERENCES

- Aberdeen City Council 1994 *Provost Skene's House, Guestrow: visitor leaflet* Aberdeen, Arts and Recreation Division, Aberdeen City Council, Aberdeen.
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- MCG 1992 *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*.

UKIC 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage*.

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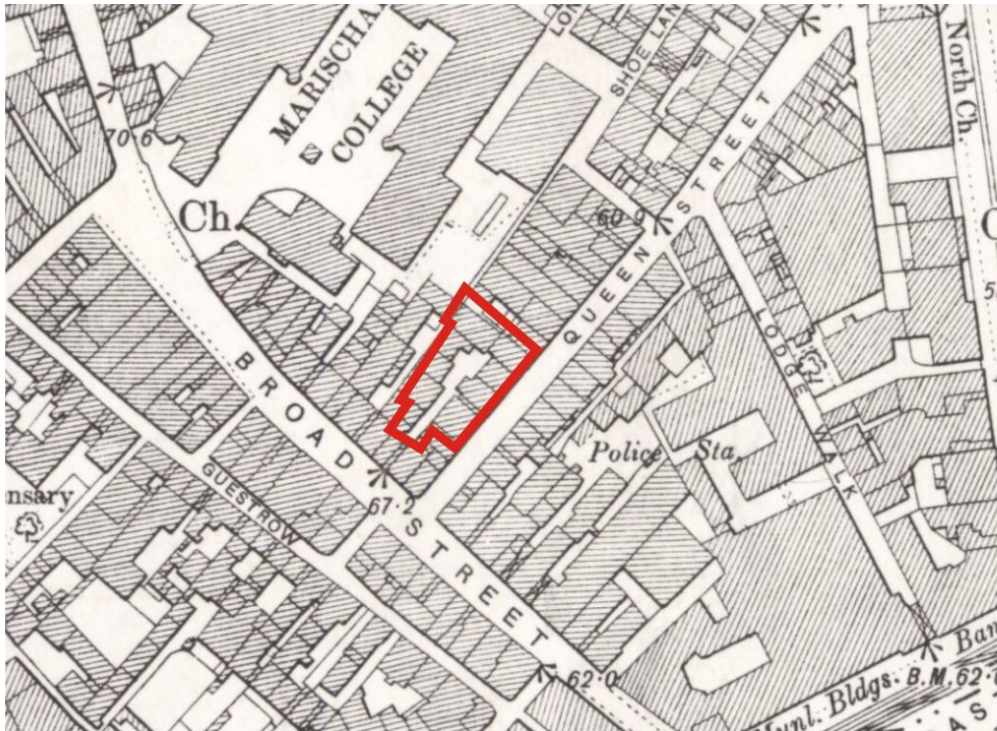
11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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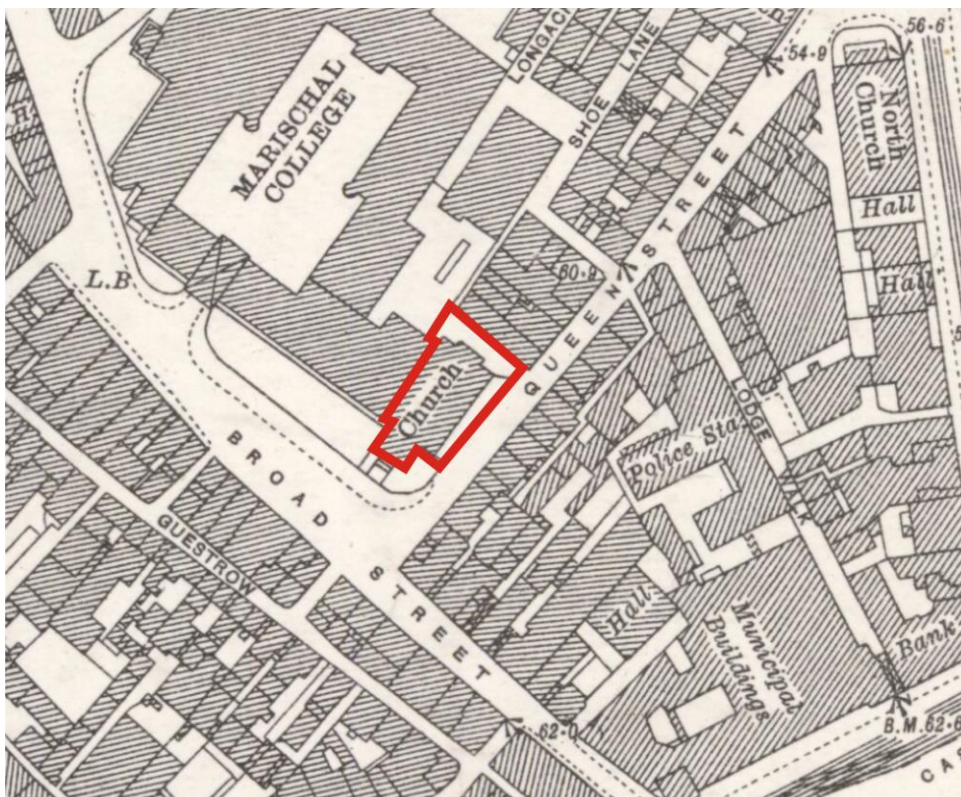
APPENDIX 1 MAPS



Illus 3 First Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeen Sheet LXXV.11 (Old Machar) Survey date: 1867 Publication date: 1869



Illus 4 Second Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire 075.11 (includes: Aberdeen) Publication date: 1902 Revised: 1899/1900



Illus 5 Third Edition OS map showing site outline in red (*copyright National Library of Scotland*) Aberdeenshire 075.11 (includes: Aberdeen) Publication date: 1926 Revised: 1924 Levelled: 1899/1900